

Washington State Revision of Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service Rule Workgroups Process

Background

The State Board of Health (SBOH) initiated a major revision of Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service, at their November 2001 meeting. The Department of Health (DOH) then formed an advisory workgroup to recommend whether the FDA Model Food Code (Food Code) or the existing state WAC should be used as the base document for our future food rules. Initial meetings of the workgroup were held in January 2002 in Seattle and Spokane. A second meeting was held in Kent on March 13. The workgroup reached almost unanimous agreement at the March 13 meeting that the Food Code was the best document to use as a base for the rule revision. The workgroup will be recomposed for the next stage of the revision process. The process for developing the initial draft of the rule revision is described below.

The starting assumption is that the 2001 Food Code will be adopted by reference with minor modifications. Comments regarding modifications will be accepted by DOH from all stakeholders. Special issue subcommittees and a core workgroup of representative stakeholders will review the comments. The core workgroup will make recommendations to DOH for divergence from the Food Code on certain issues. In addition, comments will be accepted about sections of the existing food service WAC that deal with issues not covered in the Food Code (e.g., temporary food service.) These comments will be reviewed by the core workgroup for recommendations whether to add these provisions to those of the Food Code, as appropriate. DOH will then draft a proposed rule revision for SBOH consideration.

Workgroup Process

- ◆ A Core Workgroup and five special “Issue Subcommittees” will be formed in April 2002.
- ◆ All food safety stakeholders will be given an opportunity to provide comments on specific provisions contained in the Food Code or missing from the Food Code, but addressed by the current WAC, according to a schedule for consideration by the Core Workgroup (or Issue Subcommittees) that will allow a month to evaluate them before a scheduled meeting.
- ◆ We request that proposals for amendments to the provisions of the 2001 Food Code be submitted in a standard format that includes a public health justification for the change. (See the attached *Issue Submission Form*.)
- ◆ The five Issue Subcommittees will discuss and attempt to develop consensus recommendations for Core Workgroup consideration.

- ◆ The Core Workgroup will go through the 2001 Food Code chapter-by-chapter and section-by-section, considering stakeholder and Issue Subcommittee recommendations.
- ◆ The Core Workgroup will attempt to provide final consensus recommendations to DOH.
- ◆ DOH will develop a draft proposal for rule revision to SBOH.

Core Workgroup

Meeting Facilitator: David Gifford

Workgroup Coordinator: Ned Therien

Alternate Staff: Janet Anderberg & Mary Ferluga

Membership (workable total of 15):

- 3 Restaurant representatives
- 2 Food market representatives
- 1 Food worker representative
- 1 School food service representative
- 5 Local health jurisdiction representatives
- 1 DOH Facilities Services & Licensing representative
- 1 Department of Social and Health Services representative
- 1 Consumer representative (WSU Cooperative Extension)

Issue Subcommittees

Subcommittee membership may or may not include members of the Core Workgroup. Membership is not limited to any certain number.

Bare Hand Contact Subcommittee

Workgroup Coordinator: Janet Anderberg

Cooking, Reheating, Hot Holding Subcommittee

Workgroup Coordinator: Mary Ferluga

Consumer Warning, Date Marking, Discard Date Subcommittee

Workgroup Coordinator: Ned Therien

Cooling, Cold Holding, Room Temperature Storage Subcommittee

Workgroup Coordinator: Janet Anderberg

Items Not Addressed by Food Code Subcommittee

(Temporaries; mobiles; donated food distributors; bed & breakfasts; etc.)

Workgroup Coordinator: Mary Ferluga

Food Rule Revision Core Workgroup Schedule to Develop Proposal for SBOH

Subject	Comments Due from Stakeholders	Core Workgroup Meeting
Chapters 1 & 2 (2001 FDA Food Code)	June 19, 2002	July 31, 2002
Chapters 4 & 5	July 24, 2002	August 28, 2002
Chapters 6 & 7	August 21, 2002	September 25, 2002
Chapter 8	September 18, 2002	October 30, 2002
Chapter 3 (Misc. Issues)	October 23, 2002	December 11, 2002
Chapter 3 (Subcommittee Issues)	See Table Below (Subcommittee Reports Due December 4, 2002)	January 22, 2002
Chapter 3 (Unresolved Issues)	N.A.	February 26, 2003
Items Not Addressed by Food Code	Subcommittee Report(s) February 12, 2003	March 26, 2003
Misc. Unresolved Issues		April 23, 2003
<i>DOH Staff Develop Draft Rule</i>		<i>(May -- June 2003)</i>
<i>Draft Distributed to Stakeholders</i>		<i>(July 2003)</i>
<i>Regional Stakeholder Meetings</i>		<i>(July – August 2003)</i>
Workgroup Considers Comments from Regional Stakeholder Meetings		August 27, 2003
<i>Draft Revised by DOH Staff</i>		<i>(September 2003)</i>
<i>Draft Proposal Reviewed by DOH Rule Specialists and Management</i>		<i>(October 2003)</i>
DOH Staff and Core Workgroup Brief SBOH		November 12, 2003

Food Rule Revision Special Issue Subcommittees Schedule

Specialty-Issues	Comments Due from Stakeholders	Subcommittee Recommendation Due in to Core Workgroup
Bare Hand Contact	June 12, 2002	December 4, 2002
Cooking, Reheating, Hot Holding	July 10, 2002	December 4, 2002
Consumer Warning, Date Marking, Discard Date	July 17, 2002	December 4, 2002
Cooling, Cold Holding, Room Temperature Storage	August 7, 2002	December 4, 2002
Items Not Addressed by Food Code	October 2, 2002	February 12, 2003

DOH Contacts:

Ned Therien - Phone: (360) 236-3071 email: ned.therien@doh.wa.gov

Janet Anderberg – Phone: (425) 745-1726 email: janet.anderberg@doh.wa.gov

Mary Ferluga – Phone: (509) 734-7450 email: mary.ferluga@doh.wa.gov